

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth  
For Immediate Release  
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**HERSETH: DISASTER PAYMENTS AVAILABLE FOR SOUTH DAKOTA PRODUCERS  
MARCH 14**

**March 8, 2005, Washington, D.C.** – Rep. Stephanie Herseth announced today that South Dakota producers who suffered 2003 and 2004 losses due to drought will be eligible for disaster assistance on March 14th, 2005. It is expected payments will be distributed as early as the end of this month. Certain 2005 crop losses will be eligible for assistance at a later date, which is yet to be announced.

Rep. Herseth said: “While I am disappointed that House leadership insisted on raiding conservation programs to pay for this disaster relief, I am pleased that South Dakota farmers and ranchers will soon have access to needed assistance for drought losses. A drought is not as sudden or dramatic as a hurricane, but it is no less a natural disaster, and should be treated as such.”

These disaster assistance payments are authorized under the Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2005. Eligible South Dakota producers should contact their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Local FSA contact information can be found on the Internet at:

[http://oip.usda.gov/scripts/ndisapi.dll/oip\\_agency/index?state=us&agency=fsa](http://oip.usda.gov/scripts/ndisapi.dll/oip_agency/index?state=us&agency=fsa)

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